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BULLETIN

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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR Not recommended.
Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles for Children and Young People

- Ad Adams, Samuel Hopkins. The Erie Canal; illus. by Leonard Vosburgh. Random House, 1953. 182p. (A Landmark Book) \$1.50.

An account of the building of the Erie Canal, with all of the physical hardships and the political machinations that were involved. The style is chatty and informal, with frequent references to the author's grandfather who was living in that part of New York State at the time the Canal was built. (Gr. 6-8)

- SpC Association for Childhood Education International, comp. Song Children Like; Folk Songs from Many Lands. A.C.E.I., 1954. 48p. \$1, paper.

A collection of sixty-two songs, with words and music, chosen from the folk music of many lands. Most of the songs are familiar and many of them are available in other collections that are generally to be found in school and public library collections. Because of the paper binding, this will be a more satisfactory collection for home and camp use than for general library use. (All ages)

- NR Barker, Melvern J. Little Island Star. Oxford, 1954. 32p. \$2.75.

Tommy Green is a small boy living on an island near a lighthouse. Each night he watches the lighthouse light and it comforts him in the dark. One night he is lost on the island but a light in his own window leads him home. The story is quite confusing in that Tommy thanks the lighthouse light for showing him the way home when it was really the light from his own house that showed him the way. The illustrations are equally confusing. (K-Gr. 1)

- Ad Bauer, Helen. California Gold Days. Doubleday, 1954. 128p. \$3.

The story of the search for gold in California, beginning with the explorations of the early Spaniards under Hernando Cortez and ending with some of the remains of the 1849 gold rush which may still be seen by tourists in California. The major emphasis of the book is on the days of the 49'ers. The text is interesting, although it does not have the vivid writing of McNeer's California Gold Rush (Random House, 1950). A chart at the end gives the names of some of the places that were important during the gold rush days, with an account of how the places got their names, what happened at each place, and what can be seen there today. (Gr. 5-7) N.B.

- NR Bishop, Curtis. Hero at Halfback. Steck, 1953. 187p. \$2.

High school senior, Dan Taylor, was unhappy when his family moved from Union City to the

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small town of Farrington. Even his family's peace offering of a car of his own could not reconcile him to the idea of having to play football with a small town team after his dreams of being a star on the large Union City High School team. During the season he acted like a spoiled child and almost ruined the team by causing dissension among its members. In the final and crucial game, of course, he had a sudden change of heart, went in, and sparked the team to victory. There is no originality to either the characterizations or the plot and Dan's change of character is too abrupt to be realistic. (Gr.7-9)

R Bowen, Betty Morgan. One Against the Sea; decorations by Arthur Marokvia. Longmans, 1954. 214p. \$2.75.

To fifteen-year-old Bill Walton his mother's death brought a double loss, for her last wish had been that he should take his four-year-old sister Merrie and go to their grandmother at Flamborough, on the North Sea coast of England. Leaving the New England town where he had lived all his life was hard, but leaving his beloved boat was even harder. In Flamborough Bill made a bad start by accidentally injuring a small boy, but in time he won a place for himself in the village and gained an understanding of why his mother had wanted him to come back here to live. The problems of adjusting to a new situation are well handled and there is action and suspense to hold the reader's interest.

(Gr.7-9)

M Browin, Frances Williams. Ginger's Cave; illus. by Tom Two Arrows. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 182p. \$2.50.

Eleven-year-old Marjorie Starr and thirteen-year-old David Starr were thoroughly bored with their new home near Jolao, in the Four Corners sections of Arizona. They missed the friends they had left in Philadelphia and the many activities in which they had been engaged each summer. Then one day their dog, Ginger, led them into a cave, and that started them on a series of exciting adventures. The cave turned out to be part of an ancient Indian dwelling which archeologists had been searching for but had never been able to locate. Two young archeologists who happened to be in the area when the children made their discovery took over and taught David and Majorie how to make a scientific study of findings of this kind without damaging them, and by the end of the summer the two children were well on their way to becoming ardent archeologists themselves. The writing is uninspired and the ending, in which most of the Starr's financial problems are solved as a result of the children's discovery, is somewhat unrealistic. However, the book will have interest for its unusual subject and setting. (Gr.6-8)

NR Burgoyne, Leon E. Jack Davis, Forward; illus. by Dirk Gringhuis. Winston, 1953. 213p. \$2.50.

Jack and Hal Davis, brothers, are both high school seniors and both play basketball. However, Hal is not willing to follow training rules for varsity ball and so he confines his playing to the intra-mural

teams. Jack is a star player on the varsity team. Hal is usually at outs with his brother, with the coach, and with the school principal, but in the end he reforms, gives up intra-mural ball in favor of the varsity, and leads the team to victory. The characters are not realistically portrayed and there are false values in many of the personal and team relationships. (Gr.7-9)

NR Byrd, Ann. The Animals Go Adventuring; illus. by Al Kilgore. Pageant Press, 1954. 31p. \$2.

Two very slight stories of personified animals. In the first a Sealyham dog tries to imitate a trained seal but then decides to forego a life as a performing dog. In the second a robin does a Wrong-Way Corrigan in the fall and ends up with Santa Claus' reindeer instead of in the sunny South. Both stories are lacking in humor.

(Gr.2-4)

R Carlson, Bernice Wells. Fun for One—or Two; illus. by Raymond Abel. Abington, 1954. 159p. \$2.

A collection of stunts, tricks, handcrafts, and activities of all kinds that are suitable for a child to do alone or for two children to do together. For some of the handcrafts the child may need some adult guidance to get him started. The book should be a boon for parents of an only child, especially on rainy days or during convalescence. (Gr.3-6)

M Cober, Mary Elizabeth. The Remarkable History of Tony Beaver, West Virginian; illus. by William D. Hayes. McKay, 1953. 142p. \$2.75.

A group of tall tales about Tony Beaver, legendary hero of the West Virginia Eel River country. Like his cousin, Paul Bunyan, Tony was of tremendous size, tremendous strength, and keen wit. He even had a pair of oxen that rivaled the fabulous Babe. The stories of his activities—founding a lumber business, helping West Virginia to become a state, handling a river of maple syrup, inventing matches, clothespins, peanut butter, etc., make somewhat amusing reading although the style is often forced and lacks the spontaneity of many of the Paul Bunyan stories.

(Gr.4-6)

M Crisp, Frank. The Devil Diver; illus. by R. M. Powers. Coward-McCann, 1954. 224p. \$2.75.

A tale of high adventure, lost treasure, and deep sea diving in the South Seas. Young Nick Masters and Captain Hussey, Nick's foster father and the owner of the salvage boat, Hukapuka, came into the possession of a map showing the location of an island on which the Moro pirate, Chapalulu was supposed to have hidden his treasure. The story of their search for the treasure, which they did not find, makes exciting reading, although somewhat marred by too much dependence on fortuitous circumstances. (Gr.7-9)

R Daugherty, James Henry. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman; Pioneers of Oregon. Viking, 1953. 158p. \$2.50.

A vigorous account of the lives of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, beginning at the time of their marriage, and ending with the Indian massacre in which they were killed some twelve years later. Both the text and the illustrations reflect the drama and the hardships of the Whitman's life with the vividness which readers have come to associate with Daugherty's works. The method of dividing the text into four main parts, with frequent episode headings run into the text, is sometimes confusing and tends to break the thread of the narrative. The story, however, is well enough told that these breaks become minor irritations rather than major obstacles to the enjoyment of the book. (Gr.6-8)

R Davis, Lavinia (Riker). Hearts in Trim. Doubleday, 1954. 216p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Serena Bruce, known to her family and friends as Squeak, is going through the usual adolescent pangs of indecision as to what her future shall be. She day-dreams of great success and heroic deeds, but the field in which she achieves fame changes almost as regularly as the seasons. At the time of the story she is in the throes of a crush on a new neighbor, Clare Clayton, and dreams of either emulating Mrs. Clayton's ability as an actress or of doing some great deed of service for her. Bringing her back to reality and helping her to grow in her understanding of herself and of other people, is red-headed Cliff Hawks, with whom she has fought and played for most of her life. The two young people share a legacy of books left to them by Clare's cousin Mrs. Frostgate, whom they both admired and loved. There is a mystery involving the legacy and Clare which they help to solve to everyone's satisfaction. The mystery is the least probable part of the story, which otherwise is a penetrating picture of a young girl's maturing. (Gr.8-10)

NR Duka, Ivo and Kolda, Helena. The Secret of the Two Feathers. Harper, 1954. 89p. \$2.50.

A modern fantasy told through text and trick photography. Young Martin is wandering near Cleopatra's Needle in Central Park one day when he finds a strange feather—black with a white triangle. The elevator man in his apartment building suggests that he takes the feather to a Chinese magician, Mr. Wou-Chiang. Mr. Wou-Chiang tells Martin how to find the companion feather—black with a white circle—and how to use the magic of the two feathers one he has found them. For a day and a half Martin enjoys his magic, using the feathers to help him through an arithmetic test and to make himself invisible. While he is invisible he learns of a plan to rob a Greenwich Village Real Estate Agency, tells the police of the plan, and has the satisfaction of seeing the robbers captured. The plot is not a new one, and it too closely resembles that of many comic books to be acceptable. The photographs are unusual but they stand out as examples of trick photography rather than as illustrations for the story. (Gr.4-6)

R Elkin, Benjamin. The Loudest Noise in the World; illus. by James Daugherty. Viking, 1954. 64p. \$2.50.

Hub-Bub prided itself on being the noisiest town in the world, so it was no wonder that Prince Hulla-Baloo should ask for more noise on his birthday. His plan of having everyone in the world shout at the same time was a good one, except that when the time came each person kept still so that he, too, could hear the lovely big noise. In the ensuing silence the Prince heard, for the first time in his life, the song of a bird and the ripple of water in the brook. He and the people were so delighted with these sounds that Hub-Bub thereupon became the quietest city in the world. Daugherty's humorous, lively illustrations convey perfectly the spirit of the story. (K-Gr.3)

NR Felson, Henry Gregor. Anyone for Cub Scouts? illus. by Paul Galdone. Scribner, 1954. 150p. \$2.25.

A slight story obviously written to show how a Scouting program can improve a community. When the Scott family moved to a new town, young Scotty was dismayed to learn that there not only was no Den in the new neighborhood, but the boys were divided into two gangs and spent their time fighting each other or harassing the neighbors. Through the combined efforts of Scotty and his parents a Den was formed, the boys all immediately reformed, and the neighbors welcomed them with open arms where before they had chased them on sight. Scotty is very like Clark Kent, of comic book fame, in that all he has to do is put on his uniform and he can overcome any obstacle. The contrasts between before and after are too great and the changes come about too fast to be realistic. (Gr.4-6)

M Flood, Richard T. The Fighting Shortstop; illus. by Lee Ames. Houghton, 1954. 210p. \$2.50.

Seventeen-year-old Eddie West lived for nothing but baseball. He was a star player with the Junior Legion team now and dreamed of the day when he would earn a contract with a major league team. The year when the American Legion Post in Benton decided it could no longer afford to sponsor a junior team, Eddie organized the other players and a few sympathetic adults and not only got the money for the team, but led the team to the national championship. Eddie was so thoroughly dedicated to baseball that he often let it overshadow his home responsibilities and distort his sense of values. This led to serious conflicts with his mother, who did not share any of his enthusiasm for the game. In time Eddie came to see his mother's point of view, and he agreed to give up pro-baseball temporarily in favor of college. The book has more emphasis on Eddie's problems with his jobs and on his mental turmoil as he tries to understand his mother's point of view than it has on descriptions of the games themselves. The story is well told although Eddie's final decision comes too abruptly to seem wholly realistic. (Gr.7-9)

- R Friermood, Elisabeth Hamilton. Hoosier Heritage; illus. by Robert Hallock. Doubleday, 1954. 221p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Julia Edwards longed to put her newly earned teaching certificate to good use, but her tyrannical father decreed that she should stay on the farm and work instead. When Pa spoke all of his children, even those now married and with families of their own, obeyed. The only persons who dared oppose him was Grandma Edwards, and she was not always successful in making him change his mind. Therefore when Pa decided to take his family to Kansas, he took them all, even the married children and their families. Only Grandma stayed behind on the home farm. However, when Pa's refusal to stop for a doctor resulted in the death of one of the grandchildren, Julia and her sister and brother-in-law left the rest of the family and settled down in Lebanon, Missouri where the baby was buried. There Julia found the school she had longed for, and fell in love with a young doctor. An interesting picture of life in Indiana and Missouri in 1879-80.

(Gr.8-10)

- NR Gallagher, Louise (Barnes) and Wyndham, Lee. Buttons and Beaux. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 276p. \$2.50.

A career story about dress designing. Successful designer, Mary Bray, offers eighteen-year-old Roberta Ann Davis a job as her assistant even though Roberta has never had any training or experience in the work. Within two years time Roberta has won for herself a place as a recognized designer—and, of course, the inevitable engagement ring. The story is slow moving, the characters are mere types, and success is made much too easy and simple for Roberta for the story to have much value in vocational guidance.

(Gr.8-10)

- M Gardner, Lillian S. The Oldest, the Youngest, and the One in the Middle; pictures by Doris Stolberg. Watts, 1954. 64p. \$2.50.

Seven-year-old Missie was an only child but she was seldom lonely because there were so many other children in her neighborhood. Then some of the children started a new club with membership restricted to those children who had baby brothers or sisters. Missie took her troubles to eight-year-old Pete, also an only child, and between them they planned a club that eventually expanded to include all of the children in the neighborhood. The text is too difficult for beginning readers although it could be handled by most youngsters reading at a third grade level.

(Gr.2-4)

- R Garland, Joseph. All Creatures Here Below; illus. by Rene Martin. Houghton, 1954. 87p. \$2.

The story of life from the protozoa to mankind, and from early to modern times. Each class of animals is first described in terms of its general characteristics, and then several individual members of the class are described in more detail. The text is interestingly written and will not be too difficult for young readers who are

interested in the subject. The illustrations are not labeled and it is not always possible to identify the animals in them from the descriptions in the text. (Gr.6-8)

- M Hackett, Walter. The Queen Who Longed for Snow; illus. by Beryl Bailey Jones. Houghton Mifflin, 1954. 20p. \$2.25.

Re-telling of a legend from southern Portugal. According to the legend the King of Portugal married a beautiful Queen from the Serra da Estrella country close to the border of Spain. The young Queen was unhappy in her new home because she missed the snow and ice of her own land. In order to make her happy the King had almond trees planted throughout the area around the palace so that for three months of the year she could look out on white blossoms that resembled snow. The writing is rather pedestrian and lacks the flavor of either fairy tale or legend. The illustrations are of the traditional fairy tale type. (Gr.4-6)

- R Holberg, Ruth (Langland). Rowena the Sailor; illus. by Grace Paull. Doubleday, 1954. 224p. \$2.75.

More antics of tomboyish, eleven-year-old Rowena Carey. This time she is beginning the summer in the throes of a crush on pretty Jennifer Collins, a summer visitor who is about two years older than Rowena. With Jennifer as a model, Row tries a new hair-do, with sad results, and takes up sailing, which turns out to be a source of real pleasure. The crush comes to a rather unhappy ending when Jennifer finds the local boys more interesting than Row. However, by the end of the summer Rowena finds that she had done a bit of growing up and has come to a better understanding of her family and friends. The story has much the same bounce and humor of the earlier books. (Gr.4-6)

- NR Holland, Rupert Sargent. Peter Stuyvesant; illus. by Lee Ames. Messner, 1953. 183p. \$2.75.

A biography of Peter Stuyvesant that makes fairly pleasant reading but that does not agree with most interpretations of his character. The author shows Stuyvesant's stubbornness as a likable characteristic, and pictures the man as wholly magnanimous and concerned only with protecting the people of New Amsterdam and developing the colony for the glory of the Company. The author admits that his is not the generally accepted picture of Stuyvesant, but he does not give reasons for his interpretations of the man.

(Gr.7-9)

- M Hurd, Edith (Thacher). The Devil's Tail; Adventures of a Printer's Apprentice in Early Williamsburg; illus. by Clement Hurd. Doubleday, 1954. 216p. \$2.75.

A story of Williamsburg, Virginia, just before the Revolutionary War, and of young Tom Cartwright, a backwoods boy who came to Williamsburg to work as an apprentice to Alexander Purdy, printer and publisher of one of the three Virginia Gazettes. In his position in the print

shop Tom has an opportunity to see and hear much of what is going on politically in the country at that time. The background of the story is interesting but the style is so plodding and much of the writing so stilted that the book will not have great appeal for many readers.

(Gr.6-8)

M Jackson, Caary Paul. Giant in the Midget League; illus. by Charles Klinger. Crowell, 1953. 90p. \$2.

Mike Hoppe is not only a newcomer in town, he is also overgrown for his eleven years and is poorly co-ordinated as a result of his unnatural size. When he tries to win a place on the local Midget League team, some of the other boys resent him because of his size and his awkwardness. His friendship with Eddie Brown, coach of the Midget League Team, helps him to adjust to his handicap and also teaches him much about team play. A very routine story, but one that could be used for remedial reading classes.

(Gr.2-6)

R Jewett, Eleanor Myers. Which Was Witch? Tales of Ghosts and Magic from Korea; illus. by Taro Yashima. Viking, 1953. 160p. \$2.50.

A collection of fourteen stories retold from Korean folklore. Some of the themes are similar to European folk tales and others are quite different. The stories are beautifully told and will bring to American children a happier understanding of the Korean people than they are likely to find in other contemporary material on that country. At the end the author lists some of the sources which she has found to be especially helpful in gathering and re-telling the stories.

(Gr.4-6)

NR Johnson, Margaret Sweet. Wilderness Pup. Morrow, 1954. 94p. \$2.25.

The story of an Alaskan malamute who was born in the wilds of Labrador, was tamed by a young geologist who was exploring in that area, and was taken back to Connecticut to the geologist's home. The writing is stolid and uninspired and the style is much more difficult than the format of the book would indicate.

(Gr.4-6)

R Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Haunt Fox; drawings by Glen Rounds. Holiday House, 1954. 220p. \$2.50.

A well-told story of a fox, Star, and of the boy Jack, and his foxhound Thunder, who set themselves the task of someday catching the fox. Star usually enjoyed the chase and would even tempt Thunder into chasing him. Star always proved himself the smartest of the three until one day when his favorite escape route ended in a snare. That day Jack proved himself a real sportsman by releasing the fox and giving it a fair chance to save itself. The story has the same swift pace and vigorous style that readers have come to expect from this author.

(Gr.6-8)

Ad Komroff, Manuel. True Adventures of Spies; illus. by Carl Kidwell. Little, Brown, 1954. 220p. \$2.75.

Eleven stories about spies of past and modern times, from Nathan Hale to the Norwegian men who destroyed an important heavy water plant during the Second World War. Seven of the spies told about here are also subjects of sections in the Epstein, Real Book About Spies (Garden City Books, 1953). Komroff puts more emphasis on the glamorous side of spying than does Epstein, who emphasizes the mercenary character of most spies and the large amount of dull, routine work which they must do.

(Gr.6-8)

M Lansing, Elisabeth Carleton (Hubbard). Jubilant for Sure; illus by Ezra Jack Keats. Crowell, 1954. 149p. \$2.50.

Another story of ten year old Jeb Tillson, hero of Shoot for a Mule, and of his Granny Tillson, Uncle Raff, and the mule, Noah. Jeb yearns for the gold-colored hunting dog, Tessie, that belongs to Tom Reynolds, a man from the outlands who knows neither how to shoot nor how to train a hunting dog. At first Tom is inclined to make fun of the Tillson's, but when he sees what a good shot Jeb is, he agrees to give him Tessie in return for shooting lessons. Jeb renames the dog Jubilant as a name more appropriate for the kind of dog he is sure she will become under his care and training. The book has much of the same warmth of characterization as the earlier book, but the incidents do not always ring true.

(Gr.5-7)

M Learned, Rachel. Lucky Pete; illus. by Gioia Fiammenghi. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 158p. \$2.50.

It was a hard blow for ten-year-old Pete Ladd when he had to give up his plans for a new bicycle and for a vacation on a near-by ranch because of financial difficulties which his parents were facing. At first he was rebellious, but then he became interested in holding a newspaper route which another boy was trying to take away from him, and in training two pups which he had for sale. In the end the summer turned out to be not so bad after all. Pete's problems are common ones and are handled in a realistic manner, but there is little originality to any of the characterizations.

(Gr.5-7)

R Lewellen, John Bryan. The True Book of Farm Animals; illus. by Dwight Mutchler. Childrens Press, 1954. 47p. \$2.

A simple text describing the different animals to be found on Daddy Tom's farm and the way in which he cares for them. Some common misconceptions, such as that pigs are naturally dirty and greedy, are corrected. The book will be useful for farm units in the primary grades.

(Gr.1-3)

R Lewiton, Mina. Rachel; pictures by Howard Simon. Watts, 1954. 185p. \$2.50.

Young Rachel Lessing lived with her father, mother, and eight-year-old brother Herman on New York's Lower East Side during the early days of the twentieth century. Rachel's father, who sold books from a pushcart, was offered an opportunity to go into business with a man who

had a jewelry store uptown. At first Rachel was unhappy at the thought of moving from the neighborhood she knew so well, but when the family had finally settled in the new apartment, she discovered that the new neighbors were very much like the friends she had left behind. A pleasant family story. (Gr.4-6)

R McConnell, Jane (Tompkins) and Burt. First Ladies; From Martha Washington to Mamie Eisenhower; portraits by Isabel Dawson. Crowell, 1953. 342p. \$3.

Brief biographies of thirty-four women who have won fame, if for no other reason, by being wives of the Presidents. The book will make interesting supplementary reading material for American history classes, giving as it does, a picture of the home life of the Presidents through times of peace and of crisis, and giving a kind of domestic history of the United States. (Gr.7-9)

M Mace, Katherine and Harry. Chief Dooley's Busy Day. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 40p. \$2.

Chief Dooley is the only policeman in Newtown Center. He likes his work of directing traffic, helping to find lost children and pets, and giving friendly advice and help to people on all kinds of problems. Once in a while, though, he begins to yearn for a job in a large city where there is more excitement. One day he goes to the city to apply for a job. While he is away everything in Newtown Center becomes snarled and confused and he has to work hard to get matters straightened out again. Then he discovers that he is appreciated by the people of the town and he knows he could never be quite so happy in the city as he is here. The story has a theme that is satisfying for young children but the cartoon-like illustrations cheapen the book. (K-Gr.2)

NR MacNeice, Louis. The Penny That Rolled Away; illus. by Marvin Bileck. Putnam, 1954. 38p. \$2.25.

The story of a coin family living in a piggy bank on a mantelpiece. One day the baby of the family, a penny, rolls off the mantel, across the rug, and into a hole where she is captured by a mouse. Her sister, a dime, and her brother, a nickel, set out to find her, with the help of some toys and figurines that also live on the mantelpiece. The brother and sister are also captured by the mouse but they manage to trick her into letting them go. The story is very slight and the humor is forced. The constant shifting from the personification of the coins to the treatment of them as nothing more than pieces of money, is confusing for young children. Bileck's illustrations are more adult than child-like in their appeal. (Pre-school)

M Mallette, Gertrude Ethel. Bright Side Up. Doubleday, 1954. 218p. \$2.75.

A combination career-love story, with the emphasis on the love elements. Stacey Carlton is just embarking on her career as a commercial photographer and runs immediately into trouble when the cabin she had been using as a dark room is sold. After that set-back, however, her

life moves rapidly forward through a series of adventures involving a cache of stolen money which she uncovers in the course of her search for a new dark room, involvement in a community fight to obtain a public library, and romance with the new owner of the cabin—a glamorous Korean war hero. The book has little substance but is reasonably satisfactory as a light love story. (Gr.8-10)

R Marcher, Marion W. Monarch Butterfly; illus. by Barbara Latham. Holiday House, 1954. 46p. (A Life-Cycle Story). \$2.

In clear, simply written text and excellent illustrations the story of a monarch butterfly is told from the time the egg is laid on a milkweed leaf until the butterfly itself has reached maturity and has laid its share of eggs for future generations of butterflies. At the end of the book there is a section: "How to Raise a Monarch Butterfly". (Gr.3-5)

M Marshall, Virginia Stone. Flower Arranging for Juniors. Little, 1954. 113p. \$2.75.

An introductory guide to flower arranging for boys and girls. The author uses four basic patterns and shows how variations of the patterns can be used to suit differing needs. The material is good, but the presentation is too coy and condescending to have appeal for the age youngster who would normally be interested in the subject. (Gr.5-7)

M Mason, Margaret and Charles. How Do You Build a House? illus. by Jon Nielson. Sterling, 1953. 61p. (The World We Live In Series) \$2.

Two small boys follow closely the activities involved in the building of a house from blueprint to finished house. One of the boys is the son of the contractor and so the boys have more than usual freedom in going over the house, and the men on the job are exceptionally willing to stop their work and show the boys the whys and wherefores of the various steps in the construction. The story is quite contrived. There is a glossary of building terms at the end and a list of suggested questions and activities for the teacher to use. (Gr.4-6)

M Moran, Eugene F. Famous Harbors of the World; illus. by Elton C. Fax. Random House, 1953. 99p. (A Gateway Book). \$1.75.

The book begins with a discussion of why men need harbors and some of the problems that men have had to solve in order to utilize natural harbors, or to build harbors where there were no natural ones. Then follow detailed accounts of the building and use of five major harbors of the world: Liverpool, Hamburg, Sydney, Hong Kong, and New York. The material is interesting but the writing is labored. (Gr.5-7)

Ad Nathan, Adele Gutman and Baker, W. C. Famous Railroad Stations of the World; illus. by Graham Bernbach. Random

House, 1953. 100p. (A Gateway Book). \$1.75.

A moderately interesting account of the history of railroad stations from earliest to modern times and in many parts of the world. More attention is given to the history of railroads and of railroad stations than to detailed descriptions of individual stations. There is considerable padding and the writing is very uneven.

(Gr.5-7)

NR Payne, Stephen. Young Hero of the Range; illus. by Charles H. Geer. Lantern Press, 1954. 191p. (Young Heroes Library). \$2.50.

A poorly written ranch story set in the period of the great controversy between cattlemen and homesteaders. Eleven-year-old Stan Adams' family are homesteaders who are having a difficult time because of the actions of one of their neighbors—a cattleman. Stan goes to work for another ranch owner and during the course of one summer wins for himself a horse, a job as a regular cowboy, and the friendship of the cattleman who was trying to run his father out of the country. The characters are not realistically portrayed and there are objectionable stereotypes used.

(Gr.5-7)

R Robertson, Keith. The Wreck of the Saginaw; illus. by Jack Weaver. Viking, 1954. 144p. \$2.50.

In 1870 when the U.S.S. Saginaw struck a reef off the shore of Ocean Island in the mid-Pacific, that small spot of land was too far from the lanes of traffic for the men to have any hope of rescue. About a month after the ship was wrecked, four men set out in the ship's gig to try to make the fifteen hundred mile voyage to Hawaii. They reached the Islands thirty days later, but three of the men were drowned trying to beach the boat. The fourth man, William Halford, was cared for by the natives on the island until he could be taken to Honolulu. After that it was a relatively short time before a rescue ship had been sent to Ocean Island and returned with the remainder of the ship's crew. A gripping adventure story in which the names, dates, and events are actual facts; conversation has been added to give increased appeal to the story.

(Gr.7-9)

R Rogers, Matilda. The First Book of Cotton; pictures by Mimi Korach. Watts, 1954. 69p. \$1.75.

A straight-forward, factual presentation of what cotton is, how and where it originated, the history of its use, and its present importance in many phases of modern living. The book will be useful for both nature study and social science classes. A glossary and an index are included at the end.

(Gr.5-7)

R Rounds, Glen. Whitey Takes a Trip. Holiday House, 1954. 87p. \$2.

Another tale about Whitey, the small but mighty hero of the Lone Tree Ranch. This time Whitey is delivering a team of horses which his Uncle Torwal has sold to a neighboring rancher. On

the way he rescues a rancher who had been thrown from his buggy and had broken his leg. As in the earlier stories there is humor and action to the telling and the story is short enough to appeal to readers who want a "little" book.

(Gr.4-8)

R Sauer, Julia Lina. Mike's House; illus. by Don Freeman. Viking, 1954. 32p. \$2.50.

A delightful story of four-year-old Robert to whom the public library is "Mike's House" because that is where his favorite book, Mike Mulligan, is to be found. The story of what happens one day when Robert gets lost in a snow storm and tries to find his way to Mike's house with the aid of a friendly policeman and a waitress makes a story that will have appeal for young children—who will like it just as an adventure story; and for adults—who will find it a humorous insight into the way in which a small child's mind works.

(Pre-school)

R Schartum-Hansen, Ingvild. Ingvild's Diary; written at the Children's International Summer Village, Glendale, Ohio; illus. with photographs taken by official camera men and arranged in the text by Marion Downer. Lothrop, 1954. 144p. \$2.50.

The diary of eleven-year-old Ingvild Schartum-Hansen of Norway, written during her summer at the Children's International Summer Village at Glendale, Ohio. Her reactions to American ways and American foods are often amusing and her insight into some of the problems that can arise in a situation such as this one is often penetrating. The photographs are interesting but could have been made more meaningful if they had been given captions identifying some of the people mentioned by Ingvild.

(Gr.6-8)

Ad Schlein, Miriam. Elephant Herd; illus. by Symeon Shimin. Scott, 1954. 40p. \$2.

A picture-story-book about two small African elephants who decide they would rather live by themselves than with the herd. After a harrowing night and day in which they learn that they are not yet strong enough to cope with the dangers of their world, they are happy to have an old bull elephant come to their rescue and lead them back to the herd. The rhythmical text makes pleasant reading although it is rather long for pre-school or kindergarten youngsters. Because of its simple style and interesting subject matter the book could be used as remedial reading material for upper elementary and junior high school grades. Some of the first pictures are confusing and are not correct, in that they show lions and leopards sleeping at night, with various kinds of deer sleeping in the same clearing.

(K-Gr.6)

M Scott, Judith Unger. Cues for Careers; illus. by Ruth K. Macrae. Macrae Smith, 1954. 251p. \$2.75.

A brief overview of the many different careers that are available for women. Twenty large areas are discussed with some information about the kinds of jobs that are available within

each area, the training required at each level, and, in exceedingly general terms, something of the level of salary that may be expected. The book will serve merely to introduce girls to the possibilities of each type of work; the information is too brief and too generalized to be of real value for reference use. The writing is quite poor. (Gr.8-)

NR Shaw, Thelma and Ralph. Outdoor Fun; illus. by Jean Tamburine. Rand McNally, 1953. 33p. (A Book-Elf Book) 25¢.

Randy, Ann and their friends are taken through Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter activities. Their games at various seasons are named and directions for some of the games, such as tag, London Bridge, marbles and hopscotch are included. The directions given are not complete enough to play the games, and some of the directions will be at variance with the way in which the same games are played in some neighborhoods. The book is a strange combination of rules for games, descriptions of things to do, and activities for different times of the year, and it is hard to see how it could be used by children. (K-Gr.1)

M Talbert, Ansel Edward. Famous Airports of the World; illus. by Clayton Knight. Random House, 1953. 96p. (A Gateway Book) \$1.75.

An exceedingly pedestrian account of some of the famous airports of the world. Eight airports: Idlewild, Pittsburgh, Thule, Muroc, Wake, London, Schiphol, and Tempelhof, are described in some detail. The more important airports of four countries: Australia, South Africa, Argentina, and Scandinavia, are briefly described in one chapter. The last chapter deals with New York City's Heliport. The paging given in the table of contents does not coincide with the paging within the text. (Gr.7-9)

R Todd, Mary Fidelis. The Juggler of Notre Dame; An Old French Tale. Whittlesey House, 1954. 40p. \$2.

A re-telling of the legend of the juggler of Notre

Dame. The illustrations give a quiet dignity and beauty to the book. The text is satisfactory for story-telling. (Gr.5-7)

NR Warner, Gertrude Chandler. The Yellow House Mystery; illus. by Mary Gehr. Whitman, 1953. 191p. \$2.50.

Another adventure involving the "Boxcar Children". This time they are on the trail of Bill MacGregor, ex-hired man of their great-grandfather, who disappeared into the Maine woods many years before. It was Bill who built the yellow house on the island which figured prominently in the book, Surprise Island. The children, their cousin Joe, and Joe's wife Alice make a canoe trip into Maine and, naturally, find Bill and bring him back home. The simple style makes the book easy to read (it is written at an upper-second grade reading level), but the plot is weak and there is little reality to the characterizations. (Gr.3-5)

NR West, Jerry. The Happy Hollisters at Mystery Mountain; illus. by Helen S. Hamilton. Garden City Books, 1954. 184p. \$.95.

Another adventure of the sugar-coated Hollister family. This time they descend, with little warning, on the ranch of a former friend of Mr. Hollister's and settle down for a nice long stay. During the course of their visit they help capture a local rustler and discover a cave full of old Indian relics which they proceed to raid in a manner calculated to bring forth groans of anguish from any archeologist. As in the earlier books the story drips sweetness and light. (Gr.4-6)

NR Zarem, Lewis and Cantwell, Ray. Superjet; A Spy-Ring Thriller. Dutton, 1954. 126p. \$2.50.

A melodramatic story of a young scientist who, with his father, develops a fantastic fuel (atomic, naturally) that will enable a plane to circle the globe in twenty-four hours. As might be expected the enemy agents are intent on getting the formula, and almost succeed, but are foiled at the last minute by our hero. (Gr.7-9)